



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

Testimony of
Mark Takai
Submitted to the
House Committee on Education
Friday, March 20, 2015

In Strong Support of H.C.R. 224 and H.R. 157,
naming a building at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School
in honor of Al Lewis

Aloha, Chair Roy Takumi and Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno, and members of the
Committee,

I am writing in support of naming the new building at Waimanalo Elementary School
after community leader and volunteer Al Lewis.

Mr. Lewis was an exceptionally generous and dedicated community servant who gave
endless time and energy to helping others, from working as a passionate fundraiser for
youth athletic programs, to driving kupuna to appointments, to taking a key role in
organizing the Waimanalo Carnival.

Mr. Lewis also was a respected member and leader in numerous community
organizations, including the Democratic Party of Hawaii, labor groups such as the Hawaii
Government Employees Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse
Union, and the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board.

Mr. Lewis' well known leadership, generosity and warm aloha spirit are greatly missed,
and he has left a tremendous legacy.

As a tribute, it would be fitting to bestow his name upon a school building where our
youth are being taught and strengthened to lead our community into the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Aloha,

Mark Takai
Member of Congress

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/20/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 224 NAMING THE NEW WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

We strongly support naming the new building at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School (WEIS) after Al Lewis, a person we will always remember for his dedication to all.

Al Lewis was a community leader in Waimanalo town. A grandparent of one of the present students at WEIS, Mr. Lewis was a pillar of the community known by most who call Waimanalo home. He was a huge supporter of Job Corps, Relay for Life, and Kupuna Programs (that assist in both Waimanalo Elementary School and Blanch Pope Elementary School). A strong supporter of WEIS, Mr. Lewis also assisted with addressing community concerns. He leaves behind a great legacy to the children and young people of Waimanalo. His life and his dedication to the community modeled for students in Waimanalo town what it is to live out the General Learner Outcomes and become a productive and involved citizen in one's community.



O'AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

VIA E-MAIL

March 16, 2015

Aloha Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

On behalf of the Oahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii we would like to submit testimony in support of HCR224 relating to naming the new Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School building in honor of the late Albert Lewis.

Mr. Lewis or "Big Al" as he was known as was a truly dedicated not only party member but community member. Big Al did so much for his community by looking out for everyone and touched many people's lives. His influence and presence was felt not only by kupuna but by keiki as well.

Please support HCR224.

Mahalo,

Bixby K.G. Ho
Chairman
Oahu County Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

STATEMENT FROM DANTE K. CARPENTER
PAST CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I
ON THE PASSING OF ALBERT "BIG AL" LEWIS

Albert "Big Al" Lewis, a lifelong Democratic Party member and community activist from Waimanalo, O'ahu, passed away on Monday, January 19, 2015, at the age of 70. Born in Honolulu, at Kapiolani Hospital on May 28, 1944, Albert Lewis was one of four children. After graduating from Kailua High School, he was a member of the U. S Coast Guard, became a member of the Hawai'i State workforce, participated as an active member of the HGEA, and thereafter, retired from state service.

Big Al Lewis was a very active community participant and member of several organizations including the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board, Waimanalo Jaycees, Friends of Waimanalo; also was an active mentor to the Waimanalo Teen Project that developed activities for young students, and, more recently, as an active "Senior," Big Al became the "Number One Plant Salesman for Senior Citizen Fundraisers!" Big Al's ability to organize and gather manpower needs ranged from community activities, encouraging youth and senior groups, and actively participating in the Annual Waimanalo Community Carnival, whose proceeds assisted a myriad of community activities. One could hear his unmistakable voice ringing out in the night, "Spend, Spend, Spend," to help the community meet its financial support needs.

A lifelong Democrat, Albert "Big Al" Lewis was an advocate of the principles of the Democratic Party; as an elected Hawai'i Democratic Party Central Committee member, helped build the Party in the mid-1960's to empower island citizens and coordinate grass roots campaigns of many Party candidates of Rural O'ahu to come together – regardless of race, sex, age or religious beliefs – to advocate the principles of the Party, i. e., social justice, equality and fairness for all. I can personally attest to Big Al's commitment as both a former candidate and elected official, but, most of all as a friend! He is survived by his beloved wife, Florence, sons Kaleo and David, daughter-in-law Milan; grandchildren Kawika, Brieann, Kristy and Alapaki; sister Ann Wong; and brothers Harry and Eugene Donato.

Big Al Lewis has been a role model for all the citizens of Hawai'i and has made an indelible contribution to its citizens over the years. Albert "Big Al's" leadership in the Democratic Party, advocate for a lifetime commitment to community service etc.; has indeed served his Community well! Further, The Democratic Party of Hawai'i extends its deepest Mahalo and Aloha to the legacy of Albert Lewis through his wife, Florence and the entire Lewis family!

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Past Chairman;

Dante K. Carpenter
Democratic Party of Hawai'i



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 20, 2015

H.C.R. 224/H.R. 157 – NAMING THE NEW
WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING
IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports H.C.R. 224 and H.R. 157, which names the new Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School building in honor of Al Lewis.

As an HGEA member for nearly 20 years, Al was heavily involved with multiple labor unions, including the United Public Workers and International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Al was active with our Retirees Unit and participated in numerous HGEA membership outreach programs. He sought to improve all three unions and help his fellow brothers and sisters become more involved in labor. Al was also incredibly passionate about giving back to his own community, serving many years on the Waimanalo Neighborhood Board and was also a member of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. He was involved in various events around his neighborhood, such as the Waimanalo Carnival, as well as various local fundraisers to help the youth of Waimanalo.

Al will continue to be missed by those who knew him. Naming the new Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School building in Al's name will serve as a reminder of his generous spirit and hardworking nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for H.C.R 224 and H.R. 157.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira,
Executive Director



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Honorable Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Honorable Representative Isaac Choy, Chair
Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 20, 2015

TIME OF HEARING: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 224 NAMING THE NEW
WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND INERMEDIATE SCHOOL
BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS.**

By Dayton M. Nakanelua,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, and I am the state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which

include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 member of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports HCR 224 NAMING THE NEW WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS. Words are insufficient to truly express the heartfelt sorrow of the loss of one of its great and longtime UPW member and friend, Al Lewis. He was "Waimanalo" through and through and a strong foundation in the community. The naming of a new elementary and intermediate school in Waimanalo in Al Lewis's honor will reveal his legacy and gift to his beloved community for generations to come.

On behalf of the thousands of UPW members who had the opportunity to work side by side and in the community with Al Lewis, we convey our most sincere thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

I write in support of H.C.R. 224 to urge the Department of Education to name the new building at Waimanalo Elementary School for Al Lewis.

The concurrent resolution describes Al's many contributions to his beloved Waimanalo community, to the Democratic Party, to young people, to unions, and to other groups and individuals.

I have been a friend of Al's for more than 25 years and shared many experiences with him, and I'd like to share one with you.

Residents of Waimanalo probably remember the WWII dumpsite at Bellow Beach. The Air Force controlled the one-acre site, which had been cordoned off as "dangerous." The site contained over 8,000 tons of buried trash. Leaders in the community, including Al, had been meeting with the Air Force for months, the bottom line for the community was to get the site cleared. However, after analyzing the contents of the site, the Air Force decided that the site didn't need to be cleared because there were no live ordinances or other dangerous items in the dump. The community was very disappointed and upset with this decision.

It was at this point that Al and community leaders asked me to help.

The Air Force needed \$2.5 million to clean the site, money they didn't have. I requested that money from the U.S. House defense appropriations chair, Jack Murtha, telling Jack how important it was to the Waimanalo community to have their request funded. Jack understood the needs of rural and underserved areas like Waimanalo and said "yes."

The appropriations passed, and the site was cleared and blessed!

All this would not have happened if Al and other community leaders had not persevered in the face of "no."

That's the kind of person Al was – decent, humble, full of aloha. This is why I am pleased to add my name to those in support of this concurrent resolution.

Aloha.

Mazie K. Hirono

Testimony of
Brian Schatz
before the

House Committee on Education

Friday, March 20, 2015

2:00pm

**in Strong Support of H.C.R. 224, Naming the new Waimanalo Elementary and
Intermediate School building in honor of Al Lewis**

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee,

I write to **strongly support** H.C.R 224 to name the new Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School building in honor of Al Lewis.

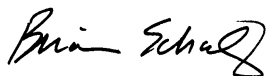
Al was a strong and positive spirit his whole life. He took great pride in Hawai'i values and worked to further and protect them in countless ways. He was a vocal labor leader and continually stood up for all working people and their families. He was a true Democrat and served the Democratic Party and its highest ideals with depth and consistency.

I have many wonderful personal memories of Al. Possibly the most vivid is following him through the streets of Denver as he energetically led us to the opening of the 2008 Democratic National Convention where we would nominate the first President from the state of Hawai'i.

Al was a fighter when times called for it and a healing force when people needed him to bring them together. But regardless of what he was doing, he was a respected and unforgettable figure to all who were lucky enough to know him.

Al loved Waimanalo, and he was a champion for the entire Windward side. Remembering his commitment to Hawai'i will always remind me to fight for what is right. Honoring him with a building in his name at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School would allow his boundless energy and positive spirit to continue to be a part of bettering Hawai'i for generations to come.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Schatz

HCR224

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Absolutely!

HCR224

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Prentiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Having known Al Lewis for many years, and worked with him on many community and political projects, there is no one who deserves this recognition more than Al. We will miss him and his volunteer work.

HCR224

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Who is Al Lewis and why him?

Testimony of Glenn Ida
45-284 Pahikaua Street
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

Committee on Education
Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair
Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice-Chair
Friday, 3-20-2015
2 PM, Room 309

Re: Support of HCR224/HR157, NAMING THE NEW WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS

Aloha Chairs Rep. Takumi, Rep. Choy, Vice-Chairs Rep. Ohno and Rep. Ichiyama and Members of the
Committees,

My name is Glenn Ida, the current Region 9 Chair for the Oahu County Committee of the Democratic
Party, which consists of Representative Districts 48-51 on the Windward side.

I'm in strong support of the passage of these Resolutions to name a building at the Waimanalo
Elementary and Intermediate to honor Mr. Albert Lewis.

I was a resident of the Waimanalo Community for most of the time between 1974 till 1986. In looking
back I can't recall when I first came to know Uncle Al or Big Al as he was also known. It was probably the
Waimanalo Carnival. Where for three days running hear his booming voice encouraging you to, "Spend,
Spend, Spend the Money".

He has served within the Democratic Party as an Officer at the Precinct and District, as well as at the State
level including being a National Party Delegate numerous times, which nominates the Democratic Party
Presidential Candidate.

I remember him as kind and generous of himself and any resources he possessed. He would go out of his
way to help others. We were friends within the party and even if we disagreed he always treated me with
respect.

I believe it is a fitting tribute at this time to Honor Mr. Albert Lewis with this Honor.
I urge you to pass HCR224/HR157 and take the necessary steps to accomplish naming the Building for
Mr. Al Lewis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Glenn Ida
808-295-1280

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT
OF HCR 224/HR 157 – NAMING THE NEW WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION &
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, March 20, 2015

2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

State Capitol Building

The Honorable State Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair and State Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
and Committee on Educations Members, and

The Honorable State Rep. Isaac Choy, Chair and State Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair
and Committee on High Education Members, Aloha kakou!

Please accept this written testimony in strong support of these resolutions which
authorizes the naming of a building at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School honoring
a long-time active resident, Albert “Al” Lewis. These resolutions pay tribute to an individual
whose love and aloha for the residents especially the youth and senior citizens of the community
has continually placed others before himself.

This honor will be help to remind others in the Waimanalo community to work within the
government and its democratic processes to ensure the rights, liberties and fairness which Al
strived for during his life. I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing, but know others in the
Waimanalo community will support this form of remembrance of a caring citizen.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul P. Richards
41-155 Poliala Street
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

LATE

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Friday, March 20, 2015
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of

HCR 224 / HR 157
NAMING THE NEW WAIMANALO ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
BUILDING IN HONOR OF AL LEWIS.

ChairTakumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education.

I respectfully ask you to pass HCR 224 and HR 157 urging the Department of Education to name the new building at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School after the late Al Lewis.

As a longtime resident of Waimanalo, I had the pleasure of knowing Al for many years. I served on several community boards with Al, especially the Waimanalo Teen Project.

Al Lewis was generous, kind, bluntly honest, and friend to all, but especially the keiki of Waimanalo. It would help heal the loss to our community that Al's untimely death has caused to have a school building named after him.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of these Resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.